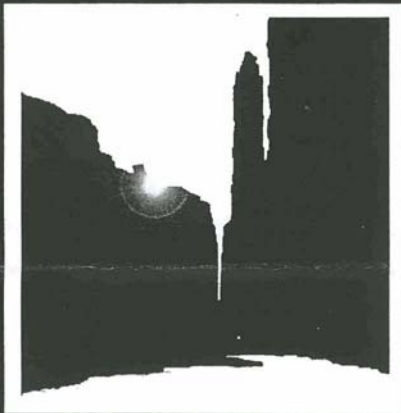




RMP News



Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area



Bruneau Planning Area

HIGHLIGHTS

- * Route Designation Process
- * Mid-Course Assessment
- * Alternatives
- * BLM Traveling Coffee Shops

Dear Reader:

I would like to express my appreciation for your continued involvement in the Resource Management Plan (RMP) process. As mentioned in our first meetings, the process can be complicated and confusing and takes a significant amount of time from start to finish. The two plans in the Boise District (Bruneau and Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA)) are certainly no exception.

Originally we kept both plans on the same time schedule in order to capitalize on efficiencies and to facilitate public involvement and participation. However, in order to give both plans the attention they deserve and to allow you the opportunity to fully understand and comment on one plan at a time, we have split things apart. For the last several months our primary focus has been on the NCA plan. We anticipate publishing the Bruneau Draft RMP early next year.

The Interdisciplinary planning team is currently putting the finishing touches on the NCA alternatives and the analysis of environmental impacts is underway.

In the meantime, we will be providing an opportunity for you to see where we

are headed with the alternatives, how they connect with previously developed issues and desired future conditions (DFCs), and how we incorporated the input of our collaborators in this process. We will be hosting BLM Traveling Coffee Shops (details inside) to informally talk with people about their interests in and questions about the NCA plan, including the alternatives we are currently analyzing.

We won't be asking for formal comment on the NCA alternatives at this time because we are in the midst of analyzing and documenting the social, economic, and environmental impacts of these alternatives for the Draft EIS for the NCA RMP.

If requested, we will also meet with individuals or groups interested in how the alternatives address specific resources or activities.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the meetings later this month and thank you for your continued involvement.

Mike O'Donnell
Planning Team Lead



Route Designation Process...

In July 2004, we initiated a collaborative route designation process which included a strategy for getting your review and comment on specific route maps and existing use and condition data. Due to other pressing resource concerns and budget constraints, we have been unable to meet our time commitment to you.

Our intent is to establish area designations (areas that are open, closed, or have some use limitations or restrictions) for motorized use in the NCA and Bruneau RMPs. We will use the RMP process to establish the criteria we will use to make specific route designation decisions in the future. The Boise District Resource Advisory Council, among others, has been working with us on these criteria since the fall of 2004.

We will let you know when the Boise District is ready to re-initiate specific route designation projects. Please stay tuned and continue to contact us with your questions and comments.

Mid-Course Assessment...

In February 2005, the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (ECR) conducted its second mid-course assessment of the RMP collaborative process. The first mid-course assessment was conducted in January 2003.

During the 2005 assessment, contract staff from ECR interviewed a number of stakeholders, including those who have been with the process since the beginning, those who are newer to the process, and BLM personnel with responsibility for the planning areas. It is important to note that in the several months preceding the February 2005 assessment, a significant turnover of BLM managers responsible for oversight of the planning areas occurred (see the December 2004 RMP Newsletter).

The purpose of the assessment was to: (1) gauge the extent of familiarity with the planning process and the status of that process, (2) seek to understand stakeholders and BLM personnel

perceptions of the collaborative process to date, and (3) guide mid-course adjustments as necessary.

A report describing the assessment process and results can be found at www.ecr.gov. In short, the assessment tells us that there is some:

- ♦ confusion about the status of the RMPs,
- ♦ frustration about the amount of time it takes to complete the process,
- ♦ question about BLM management emphasis,
- ♦ recognition that the public outreach process has been more comprehensive than ever before, and
- ♦ increased understanding about the range of issues that an RMP must address.

In response to the assessment, ECR staff made a number of recommendations to the BLM, which we are now implementing.

...Proposed Alternatives

How it fits together

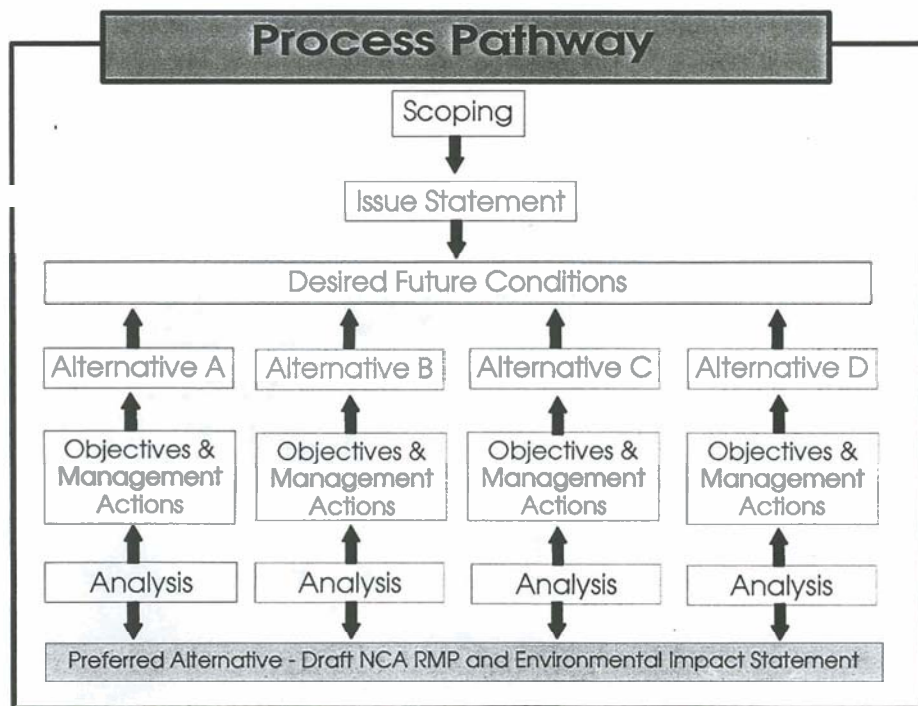
For nearly four years, we have been working toward the generation of a range of alternatives from which the BLM, based on the analysis of those alternatives, will ultimately choose the Preferred Alternative for managing the NCA. We are getting closer to this goal!

Through a variety of public meetings, open houses, work shops, data fairs, interagency coordination meetings, Tribal consultations, presentations to County Commissioners, and meetings with individuals, this project has progressed to the completion of the draft alternatives that will be analyzed in detail in the NCA Draft RMP EIS.

The process included several intermediate steps, each with public input, including:

1. **Scoping issues** which led to public issue statements;
2. **Issue statements** which led to the NCA Desired Future Condition (DFC). DFCs are the measure or goal of all successful alternatives;
3. **Data plus objectives and management actions** which led to four different alternatives;
4. **Analysis** of all alternatives will ultimately lead to the BLM preferred alternative.

All alternatives will ultimately reach the DFC; however, rates and levels for accomplishing them will vary by alternative. The Preferred Alternative will be the best blend that also meets the legislative goals of the NCA and BLM management priorities.



...BLM Traveling Coffee Shops

- ♦ Do you have questions about BLM's progress with the NCA RMP process?
- ♦ Do you have questions about the NCA draft alternatives?
- ♦ Do you want more information about how BLM will arrive at a "preferred" alternative?
- ♦ Do you want to review how the BLM incorporated your input into the planning process?

If so, please meet informally with John Sullivan, NCA Manager, and/or Mike O'Donnell, RMP Team Lead, and ask those questions. John and Mike will be available at the following locations:

Monday, June 20 - Kuna Senior Center - 229 Avenue B, Kuna

Tuesday, June 21 - Idaho Parks & Recreation - 5657 Warm Springs Avenue, Boise

Wednesday, June 22 - Mountain Home Forest Service Ranger District Office - 2180 American Legion Blvd., Mountain Home

Thursday, June 23 - Owyhee County Extension Office - 238 Eighth Avenue West, Marsing

John and Mike will be available from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. each day - no appointment necessary.



**Bureau of Land Management
Boise District
3948 Development Avenue
Boise, ID 83705**

STOP

Is your name and address
on the mailing label
correct? If not, please call
Mary Jones at 384-3305 or
e-mail
Mary_Jones@BLM.gov

How to Contact us...

Mike O'Donnell
RMP Team Lead
384-3315

John Sullivan
NCA Manager
384-3338

Mitch Jaurena
Bruneau Field Office Manager
384-3331

In addition, we have set up two e-mail accounts specifically for the Boise District Resource Management Plans
ID_Birds_of_Prey_RMP@blm.gov ID_Bruneau_RMP@blm.gov

Our apologies - the BLM planning web site is temporarily unavailable